ministerial working group on the level of food production in the country;

(b) whether Government have worked out long term strategies for diversification of crops to respond to the global and national requirements; if so the details thereof and if not, whether Government propose to undertake such an exercise; and

(c) how does Government relate the procurement prides and the poor purchasing power of the population and the proportion of food subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM:) (a) The Working Group set up by the Ministry of Agriculture to assess the foodgrains requirement by the year 2000 A.D. has placed the normative foodgrains requirement at 180 million tonnes for the year 2000 A.D. assuming a population of one billion.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Eighth Plan aims at consolidating the gain from the base built over the years in agricultural production; sustaining the improvements in productivity and production to meet the increasing demands of the growing population; and realising the country's potential by stepping up agricultural exports through diversification of agriculture.

(c) While fixing the minimum support prices (MSP), the Government, *inter-alia*, takes into consideration the possible effect of MSPs on cost of living and the general price level. The Government is also implementing specific poverty alleviation programmes for generation of a certain minimum level of income for the rural poor. Besides, the Government continues to provide huge food subsidies through budgetary support.

प्राकृति आपदाओं के शिकार व्यक्तियों के आश्रितों को राहत

2481. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह:**
श्री जनार्दन यादव:
डा. नौनिहाल सिंह:

क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या विद्यमान राजस्व नियमों के अन्तर्गत कुछ राज्यों में प्राकृतिक आपदाओं में 18 वर्ष से अधिक की आयु में मरने वालों के आश्रितों को 25 हजार रुपये की राहत दी जाती है जबकि 18 वर्ष से कम आयु में मरने वालों के आश्रितों को केवल 6,500 रुपये की राहत दी जाती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इस संबंध में एक समान नियम बनाएगी ताकि मरने वाले व्यक्तियों के आश्रितों को एक समान राहत राशि दिया जाना सुनिश्चित किया जा सके;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि वर्तमान नियमों के अन्तर्गत बाढ़ आदि से क्षतिग्रस्त हुई भूमि, फसल इत्यादि के बदले में पीड़ितों को कोई राहत प्रदान नहीं की जाती जबकि मकान, पशुधन की क्षति के मामले में ऐसी राहत दी जाती है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार कोई नियम बनाएगी जिससे यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि ऐसी प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के कारण नष्ट हुई फसलों का अनुमान लगा कर तदनुसार नकद राहत प्रदान की जाए?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविंद नेताम): (क) प्राकृतिक आपदा के कारण मरने वाले व्यक्तियों के परिवारों को प्रदत्त वित्तीय सहायता की मात्रा अलग-अलग राज्यों में अलग-अलग होती है। दुर्घटना के शिकार लोगों की आयु वर्ग तथा आर्थिक स्थिति के आधार पर भी कुछ राज्यों में इसमें भिन्नता होती है।

(ख) और (घ) नौवें वित्त आयोग की सिफारिशों पर आधारित 1 अप्रैल, 1990 से प्रभावी राहत व्यय के वित्त पोषण की मौजूदा स्कीम के अंतर्गत राज्य सरकारों को सहायता के मानदण्डों का निर्णय करने का अधिकार दिया गया है क्योंकि यह हमेशा संभव नहीं है कि सारे देश में हमेशा एक जैसे मानदण्ड अपनाए जाएं।

(ग) क्षतिग्रस्त मकानों के पुनर्निर्माण के लिए तथा पशुधन को हुई हानि को पूरा करने के लिए सहायता प्रदान करने के अतिरिक्त प्रभावित किसानों को कृषि आदानों के लिए राजसहायता के रूप में सहायता दी जाती है।

Subsidy to Tobacco Farmers for the use of Drip Irrigation

2482. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any subsidy is extended to tobacco farmers using drip irrigation;

(b) if so, the details of such a Scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that Tobacco Research Institute has attempted to modernise the system of drip irrigation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Central Tobacco Research Institute of ICAR has standardised technologies of drip and sprinkler systems of irrigation for cultivation of Flue Cured Virginia (F.C.V.) tobacco in northern light soils of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Drip irrigation gives water economy of about 25—30%. Spinkler system of irrigation was recommended up to first harvest followed by surface irrigation. Water economy was observed to an extent of 15—20%.

Role of ICAR in Drip Irrigation

2483. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the role of the ICAR in helping farmers in Andhra Pradesh to take to drip irrigation; and

(b) whether any efforts have been made to familiarise extension officers and the Agriculture Department of the benefits of drip irrigation in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The ICAR supports research in various fields including Water Management in State Agricultural Universities including Andhra Pradesh (Agricultural Universities (APAU). A Research Centre of the ICAR sponsored All India Coordinated Project on 'Management of Salt Affected Soils and Use of Saline Water in Agriculture' is located at Bapatla (APAU). In this project, scentists are developing techniques for efficient use of water including through drip irrigation.

(b) Training of extension officials and farmers, and transfer of technologies is undertaken by the State Agricultural University/State Department of Agriculture. However, the Govt. of India is implementing a centrally sponsored scheme of "Promotion of the use of Plastics in Agriculture" covering *inter alia* promotion of Drip Irrigation technology in the country including in Andhra Pradesh. The scheme covers assistance to the farmers for installation of drip systems, demonstration of drip irrigation in Govt. farms and training of the departmental officers and farmers. For the State of Andhra Pradesh, training of farmers is being organised at Plastics Development Centre located at Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University, Hyderabad.

Hazards due to spray of Insecticides/ Pesticides

2484. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a large number of human deaths take place while they engage themselves in spray of Insecticide/pesticide operations;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to save such lives;

(c) whether such chemically sprayed crops, vegetables and fruit also cause health hazard when consumed by human beings; and

(d) whether Government have set up some machinery to monitor the effect/ incidence of the impact as mentioned above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No specific information regarding deaths occurring due to spray of pesticides in agricultural sector has come to the notice of the Government. As per the information provided by State/UT Governments, the statement showing the number of pesticides poisoning cases (including suicides) is enclosed (*see* below).

(b) The measures taken by the Government